

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Chapters 4–5

"The things which shall be hereafter" begins here

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(Chapter 4 to 22 — the things which shall be hereafter)

Chapter 4 — God Seen as Creator, Ready to Judge

Chap. 4:1

The apostle John, as a prophet, is transported to heaven so as to view what God is going to do with the earth after the church (composed of all believers only) and the Old Testament saints are taken out of the earth and translated to heaven (see 1 Thess. 4:13-18; 1 Cor. 15:23).

Chap. 4:2-11

God is seen in His glory as Creator but as ready to judge the earth. 'Out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings' — betokening the coming storm of judgment about to sweep the world of the ungodly. The green rainbow shows that God remembers His covenant with creation (Gen. 9:14-16). All of the heavenly saints — the church and Old Testament believers — are included in the 'four and twenty elders'. They are intelligent and unafraid.

Chapter 5 — God's Glory in Redemption

Chap. 5:1-7

The seven-sealed book, or Christ's 'title-deed' to the earth, is seen; none being worthy to open it but Christ as the Lamb (Jer. 32:11-14).

Chap. 5:8-14

His worthiness is celebrated in the 'New Song' of heaven by those who know the redeeming power of His blood shed at Calvary.